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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/697,465	10/26/2000	Ronan P. Reichard	5785-23	4519

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EXAMINER

KUHN, ALLAN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/697,465
Applicant(s) REICHARD ET AL.
Examiner KUHNS
Group Art Unit 1732

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on DEC. 26, 2002

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 21 - 50 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) 40 - 50 is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 21 AND 25 - 37 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 22 - 24 AND 38 - 39 is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 25-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims are indefinite because selection of positioning the member "between said first and second fabric layer", as in claim 25 appears not to further limit claim 21 since this independent claim already requires a foam core between fabric layers and the load bearing member between portions of the foam core. With regard to claim 36, it is unclear why "Markush" language is used since there appears to be only one member in the group.

Clarification is required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 21 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersen (3,573,144). Andersen discloses or suggests the basic claimed method of forming high strength panels including (1) positioning a first fabric layer spaced from a second fabric layer to form opposing panel surfaces (note the glass cloth face sheets disclosed at column 3, lines 65-70), (2) fixing a foam core between at least a portion of the fabric layers to form the panel, and (3) positioning or introducing at least one compressive load bearing member between portions of the foam core along areas of anticipated compression (the individual foam spacer blocks in Andersen are located between other foam blocks and are load bearing). Andersen appears not to

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explicitly state that the blocks prevent compression of the core but such would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to maintain spacing of strips 6, as set forth at column 4, line 59.

4. Claims 22, 23 or 24 and claims 38 or 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 40-50 are allowed.

6. Applicants' arguments filed December 26, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' arguments are considered to be moot by the examiner based on the revised grounds of rejection introduced in this Office action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Kuhns whose telephone number is (703) 308-3462. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino, can be reached on (703) 308-3853. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Allan R. Kuhns

ALLAN R. KUHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER AU 1732